order being a state subject, the port authorities have taken up the matter with the Government of Maharashtra State.

Commercial Cargo Service between India-Bangladesh

739. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a commercial cargo service is contemplated on the Brahamputra river between India and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been agreed to by both the Governments; and

(d) if so, when the service is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The commercial cargo service is already operating between Calcutta, Haldia, Karimganj & Pandu on the Indian side and Narayanganj, Khulna, Mongla and Sirajganj on the Bangladesh side. For this service, a Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh already exists, which has been extended recently for a further period of two years from 4.10.1999 to 3.10.2001.

(d) Does not arise.

Procurement of Ship Engines by Andaman Administration

740. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andaman Administration is investing Rs. 160 crores to buy engines to power its ships;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any particular make of engine has been preferred; and

(d) if so, the name of the manufacturer and the reasons for selection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Administration have